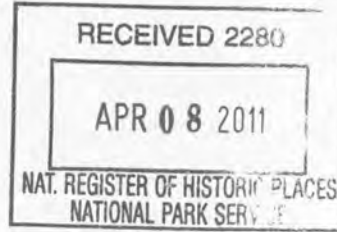


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



286

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Fire Department Headquarters/Fire Alarm Headquarters

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 300 McMillan Drive

not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C.

vicinity

state Washington, D.C. Code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20008

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

David Maloney DAVID MALONEY, DC SHPO 1 April 2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

John E. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

5.18.11
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- 1 building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick
roof: Slag
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Fire Alarm Headquarters is located on the grounds of the McMillan Reservoir with sweeping panoramic views over the reservoir and in all directions. The building is located on the south side of the reservoir and faces northeasterly. It is a one-story building with a central recessed pavilion with projecting end wings and a six-sided, pyramidal roofed dome/tower located on-center of the flat roof. Constructed in 1939-1940, the red brick building is designed in a Colonial Revival style with Colonial-era details and references, but with Modern sensibilities such as a high void-to-solid ratio. The design of the Fire Alarm headquarters, designed by Arthur B. Heaton under municipal architect Nathan Wyeth, is considered one of the most sophisticated of Washington's firehouse-related buildings.

Narrative Description

The one-story, red brick Fire Alarm Headquarters building is set atop a slight rise overlooking the McMillan Reservoir to its north and Howard University Campus to its south. The building is rectangular in plan and divided into three parts on all elevations with each one consisting of a recessed central pavilion flanked by single-bay-wide projecting end wings. The entire building is set upon a raised brick base laid in English bond, has brick walls laid in Flemish bond, and is covered with a flat roof with a recessed clerestory which in turn is covered by a six-sided central lantern tower. The building has metal sash throughout. The front and most prominent elevation facing northerly to the Reservoir and McMillan Drive offers five bays in the central pavilion and wide, single bays in the end wings. The central pavilion features an entry at the center of the five bays with two bays of windows to either side, all of which are set within wide segmental arched openings and separated from each other by limestone pilasters. The pilasters extend from the watertable at the building's base to the cornice of the first story. The central, segmental-arched entry is recessed deeply into the wall, providing a shelter for the entry doors. The entry is raised above ground level and reached by a set of granite stairs. The entry holds a pair of original wood and glass doors, surmounted by a rectangular, six-light transom. The doors and transom are encased by a wood surround with a deep backband molding and a Greek key fret molding at the top stile separating the doors from the transom. The doors have wood panels on the lower half of the door with cross bracing and upper panes of glass with Queen Anne-style sash (some of the muntins separating the sash are missing). A limestone tablet, with raised bronze lettering identifying the name of the building (FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS), is located directly above the segmental arch of the entry opening. A central limestone keystone serves as a sort of base for the rectangular-shaped tablet.

Set well back from the first story of the front façade at the roof level is a clerestory consisting of a brick wall, lit with a row of five oculus windows. Although this clerestory appears to form a separate half-story from the exterior, the windows historically opened directly into the one-story building's central control room, providing a flood of natural light. The oculus all have fixed steel sash dividing the round openings into wedged segments. A single rowlock brick course frames the circumference of the openings. The roof of the first story is covered with a pebble coated slag material and offers several skylights. A wide limestone cornice caps the cornice of the clerestory.

The hexagonal lantern tower is set back from the clerestory and consists of a six-sided drum and six-sided roof. The drum is constructed of brick and covered with copper, while the roof is constructed of wood and covered with slate. A copper finial ball sits at the apex of the roof with a lightning arrester atop this ball. Pairs of steel sash awning windows are located in each of the six wall sections.

To either side of this central entry, the bays are filled with large, 20-light metal windows with operable casements over hopper windows arranged on-center of the bays. The segmental window arches are formed by two rows of soldier-course brickwork, while the sills are composed of a single row of molded bricks. The limestone pilasters separating the bays are executed as academically correct Tuscan Orders, with a small segment of the Tuscan order entablature set upon the capitals, in turn supporting another limestone block that extends to the top of the roofline.

The end wings project in front of the central pavilion and are further accentuated by slightly projecting corner piers of brick, capped by large limestone finial balls. They are a single-bay in width, but are wider than the bays of the central pavilion

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and are filled with central, segmental-arched metal sash identical to those in the central pavilion, but flanked by eight-light side windows with operable casements over hoppers. The entire front elevation is capped by a limestone cornice coping.

Like the front elevation, the eastern side wall of the building is similarly arranged into three parts with a central, recessed pavilion and flanking end wings. Here, however, the central pavilion is just three bays wide and is not as deeply recessed, while the side elevations of the square end wings are identical to those in the front. All of the bays, in the central pavilion and end wings are filled with segmental-arched metal sash windows like on the front facade. Similarly, Tuscan Order pilasters separate the bays from each other. Along this elevation, the basement of the building is exposed next to an areaway. This basement level is symmetrically arranged with windows located directly below those on the principal story. These windows have metal sash, but lack the segmental arches of the main windows.

The southern (rear) elevation of the building, although less formally arranged, retains the central pavilion/end wing form. A tall chimney stack abuts the rear wall of the central pavilion, while three segmental-arched openings are located to either side. Three of these have been infilled with brick. The clerestory at this elevation, defined by its four oculus windows, is flush with the wall and separated from the first story by a narrow limestone stringcourse. The end wings flanking the central pavilion are articulated with segmental-arched metal sash flanked by eight-light sidelights. Both end wings have areaways with basement-level windows and entries leading into the building's cellar.

A wide limestone cornice caps the central pavilion at the roofline, while narrower limestone cornices culminate the roofline of the wings.

In the 1990s, a new building housing the Communications Division and Data Processing Center for the Fire Department supplanted the old Fire Alarm Headquarters. This new building, designed in a contemporary brick manner, appends the western side of the historic headquarters building, leaving the west side elevation no longer exposed. Originally, this elevation featured a large roll-up garage door at the exposed basement level, providing vehicular access to the cellar. This new building is set at a skewed angle to the historic building and, although sizable, does not compete architecturally with the historic Fire Alarm Headquarters building.

Interior:

The interior of the Fire Alarm Headquarters, now vacant, consisted of a large control room occupying much of the central pavilion of the building, while offices, bathrooms, and service areas divided up the end wings. The central control room originally extended the full height of the building whereby the front-facing oculus windows and central tower allowed for a flood of light into the room. This arrangement was later altered and a dropped, acoustical tile ceiling was hung, blocking the oculus windows and tower from interior view. The tower is currently visible through holes in the acoustical tile.

In addition to the first floor control room and offices, including those of the Fire Chief, the Fire Alarm Headquarters has an extensive cellar with equipment rooms, workshops, and mechanical room with the original boiler in place.

The principal entry of the Fire Alarm Headquarters opens into a vestibule with glazed brick tile walls and unpainted wooden trim surrounding a pair of doors, and a wooden crown molding. The wooden crown molding sits upon the top row of glazed tiles which is decorated with stylized and alternating metopes and triglyphs, painted blue. The blue ornament and yellow-buff glazed tile and warm, unpainted wood trim, gives the vestibule a polychromatic effect. The doors, original wood and glass doors with a six-light transom above, lead into a reception area that provides access to the control room directly in front of the door, or to the end pavilions to either side.

The control room is in a state of disarray and has been altered by partition walls and the dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The offices, bathrooms and other service areas surrounding the central control room are arranged so that they are lit by at least one bay of the building's operable, steel sash windows. The bathrooms are large rooms with glazed tile wainscoting and exposed buff brick walls above. A small water closet also holds an iron ladder to the building's roof.

A straight-flight stair with concrete treads and risers, metal hand railing and glazed tile walls provides access to the basement. The basement is equipped with a large kitchen, workshops and training room, a vehicle bay and a boiler room. The basement rooms are generally lit by metal sash windows, and have different levels of architectural treatment. The kitchen features the same glazed tile wainscoting as found in the upstairs bathrooms, while the other rooms have exposed plaster walls with no architectural articulation.

The boiler room retains two large and original boilers.

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INTEGRITY

The Fire Alarm Headquarters building retains high integrity. It still stands in its original location at McMillan Reservoir and retains its original setting overlooking the reservoir to one side and the historic boiler plant at Howard University to the other side. The building retains a high degree of design and materials, including all of its English and Flemish bond brick walls, its original steel sash windows, its copper-clad brick lantern, and its interior detailing such as glazed tile. Despite the sizable addition constructed appended to the west side of the building, the historic building retains its original form, namely its three-part configuration of central pavilion and end wings, and its original materials. The building has a high quality of workmanship, especially in its details, such as English and Flemish bond brickwork and Tuscan Order limestone pilasters. Although the building is abandoned, it offers a palpable feeling and association with the past.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1940-1961

Significant Dates

1940-1961

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Arthur B. Heaton

Nathan Wyeth

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for the Fire Alarm Headquarters begins in 1940, the year the building was completed and ends in 1961, a point fifty years from the present.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Fire Alarm Headquarters building at 300 McMillan Drive was erected in 1939-1940 as part of the city's continuing building campaign and reorganization of fire department facilities. It is unique among the historical fire department buildings for not being built to house a fire, truck or chemical company. Instead, it was built to serve as the hub of the fire-alarm callbox system. The telegraphic signals originating at call boxes near the scenes of conflagrations or accidents were transmitted to Fire Alarm Headquarters and relayed to the nearest fire station. The building is an excellent and unique example of a fire alarm building erected by and for the fire department during the fourth phase of construction of the city's pre-World War II firehouse buildings. The building meets National Register Criteria A and C according to the Multiple Property Document, "*Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*" as an excellent example of the associated property sub-type: Inter-War/Colonial Revival Period Firehouses (1925-1945).

The Fire Alarm Headquarters was designed by architect Arthur B. Heaton under Municipal Architect Nathan Wyeth in a transitional manner with Colonial Revival-style features and Modernist principles. The red brick walls, arched window openings and central dome/tower with its oculus drum, recall Colonial Revival precedents, namely Monticello, while the large steel sash and the utilitarian and minimalist detailing of the building are illustrative of emerging Modernism in the city at that time.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Constructed in 1939-40, the Fire Alarm Headquarters building is significant in the Area of **Architecture** as an excellent example of an Inter-War firehouse-related building in Washington, D.C. as designed by Municipal Architect Nathan Wyeth. Like the firehouses, the Fire Alarm Headquarters building is a one-story, red brick building with Colonial Revival-style features including segmental arched window openings, oculus windows in a half-story set back from the main block, and a pyramidal roofed dome/tower. Although the Fire Alarm Headquarters is transitional in style reflecting an emerging Modernism, the building continues to reflect the city's preferred use of the Colonial Revival-style aesthetic for its public buildings.

The Fire Alarm Headquarters building is significant in the area of **Community Planning and Development** as a purpose-built fire alarm headquarters deliberately sited in a location removed from other buildings for the protection from fire of the city's building fabric. For years, the city sought to build a purpose-built building to act as the center of the city's fire alarm network, yet it was not until 1939, with funding from the Works Progress Administration, that the city was able to move its alarm headquarters out of the District building and into its own purpose-built one.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The context for firehouses, fully described in the National Register Multiple Property Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*, divides the construction of the city's firehouses into four chronological periods: Pre-Civil War (Volunteerism) Firehouse; Victorian Period Firehouses (1865-1897); City Beautiful Movement/Eclectic Period Firehouses (1897-1916); and Inter-War/Colonial Revival Period Firehouses (1925-1945). The Fire Alarm Headquarters building was constructed in 1939-40 during the final phase of development of the city's pre-World War II firehouses and represents the work of the Municipal Architect Office under Nathan Wyeth who was responsible for the city's public buildings during that period.

Prior to the construction of the city's Fire Alarm Headquarters building, the headquarters offices were located in the fifth floor of the District building, where it had been for three decades. The National Board of Fire Underwriters had long recommended, though, that the municipal fire alarm system be in a building devoted to that one purpose, located at least 150 feet from any other structure. In the fall of 1938, the city received a \$500,000 combined loan and grant from the Public Works Administration (PWA) to construct an independent fire alarm building. The building was designed to house the fire alarm system, storage room, repair shop, offices for the fire alarm superintendent and his staff, and kitchen and dining areas. The site at McMillan Reservoir was likely chosen since it was already government owned and it fit the requirements of being well-removed from any other buildings.

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The city's fire alarm system was established in the mid-19th century when 25 fire boxes were installed along the city's streets. A pulled alarm would alert the person on duty at the fire alarm headquarters who would then dispatch a fire engine from one of the city's four stations. As the city expanded and the number of boxes grew, the system evolved. With its construction in 1939-40, the Fire Alarm Headquarters controlled more than 1,200 fire alarm boxes. When an alarm sounded at headquarters, the headquarters personnel would then re-transmit the alarm to the required fire houses, of which there were then fifty.

In addition, a two-way radio or voice communication system between the headquarters, the fire stations, and the chief's office in the new municipal center was implemented along with the alarm system. This communication system allowed for a more efficient dispatching system, especially in the case of two- or three-alarm fires.

In 1939, with the promise of the PWA loan and grant, the city's Office of the Municipal Architect, a position then held by Nathan Wyeth, presented its designs for the new headquarters building. The 1-1/2-story, red brick building followed a Colonial Revival-style aesthetic established during that period for the city's public buildings. However, while most of the city's firehouses followed more of a Georgian Revival-style, temple-fronted building form, the Fire Alarm headquarters appears to have been inspired by neo-Classical precedents, even perhaps Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. The building offers a central one-story pavilion with a recessed half-story above and one-story side wings. The half-story features oculus windows and a flat roof, capped on-center by a pyramidal-roofed dome with a fenestrated drum. This arrangement—the attic level round windows and the central dome—appear to be drawn from Monticello. The half-story and dome appear only to have provided natural light to the control room below, though the central dome may also have served as a watchtower.

The local press reported that the building was approximately two-thirds completed in August 1939 and, in December, was completed. The following May 1940, the communications equipment was installed and the building was considered on-schedule for its established June 1940 opening.¹ On May 27, 1940, the Fire Alarm Headquarters was officially opened, though the "cutover" of circuits from the existing headquarters in the District building to the new headquarters took place over the course of a week or so, during the month of June.

The building's high elevation and, more important, the web of the alarm system, made Fire Alarm Headquarters Washington's logical wartime "Warning and Control Center" for potential air raids. During the 1970s and 1980s, the building was enlarged at the rear, more than doubling the original size of the Fire Alarm Headquarters.

The building currently serves as the Communications Division and Data Processing Center for the Fire Department.

Nathan Wyeth (1870-1963)

Nathan C. Wyeth was the best educated and most talented of Washington's municipal architects. He was born in Chicago in 1870 and was educated at private schools near military installations in Racine, Wisconsin, and West Chester and Sackett's Harbor, New York. In 1892, Wyeth enrolled in the Ecole des Beaux Arts and received a diploma in 1899. Wyeth was the only one of the several architects based in Washington and Ecole-educated to actually complete its rigorous program and receive a diploma.

Wyeth probably came to Washington when he completed his education because his family had settled here in 1895 and he was assured of a prominent place in society. On December 2, 1899 he received a three-month appointment as a designer in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. In June 1900 Wyeth was elected a member of the American Institute of Architects and made a fellow four years later. He was very active in the institute's Washington chapter, serving on committees, lecturing at meetings, and submitting drawings to annual exhibits. Although he was twice invited to serve as a jury member judging architectural competitions and was twice an invited competitor, Wyeth chose not to enter open competitions, unlike a large number of his contemporaries.

Early in 1900 Wyeth was hired by the Washington office of Carrere and Hastings to work on the design of the original House and Senate Office buildings. In 1904-1905 Wyeth was the chief architectural designer in the Office of the Architect

¹ "Sending, Receiving Equipment Installed On Vessel for Communication with New Headquarters; Service Begins June 1," The Washington Post, May 1, 1940, p. 9.

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of the Capitol, the then incumbent Elliott Woods not being an architect. The American Institute of Architects had protested Woods's appointment and Wyeth's superb training and recent experience in Washington probably was intended to fill this lacuna at the time the office was preparing to carry out the Carrere and Hastings legislative office buildings.

Wyeth's first private commission was in partnership with William Penn Cresson, who studied at the Ecole from 1898 to 1902. Wyeth drew upon an extensive social network, first established by his step-father and mother, that reached into the White House, but which he actively pursued in his private practice. Between 1908 and 1914 he designed eleven residences, the majority for socially and politically prominent clients and located between 16th Street and Massachusetts Avenue north of Sheridan Circle. Wyeth continued to work within the two stylistic modes he practiced with Cresson, decidedly French residences with stone envelopes and Colonial Revival ones in brick. Many of these residences became embassies, their interiors for the most part surviving intact. The finest among them is probably the mansion he designed in 1908 for his aunt Sarah S. Wyeth at 2305 Massachusetts Avenue (one of his French designs), the Embassy of Chile since 1923.

Although Wyeth's reputation as one of Washington's best society architects rests on the consistently high quality of his mansions (the great majority of which survive, one measure of their worth), his approach to architecture was serious; he designed excellent buildings no matter what their purpose. Wyeth's public commissions on his own include six medical facilities, two of which included residential portions: the dormitory and infirmary for the Episcopal House of Mercy (1910), newly relocated to the corner of Klinge and Park Roads NW; the Columbia Hospital for Women (1913) at 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW; the Emergency Hospital (1913-15) on New York Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets NW (derived from Sullivan-esque skyscrapers); the Loudon County Hospital (1917) in Leesburg, Virginia; the Children's Country Home (1929; a residential hospital for sick children) at 1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE; and the Glendale Sanitarium (1934) in Glendale, Maryland.

Like most other architects in practice in Washington when America entered the war in 1917, Wyeth was commissioned a major in the U.S. Army, working so hard on designing military installations that his health broke down; he spent about five years recovering in a Swiss sanitarium. On April 26, 1926, Wyeth formed a partnership with Francis Paul Sullivan (educated in engineering and architecture at George Washington University) who had been Wyeth's draftsman beginning about 1913. By 1930 the firm Wyeth & Sullivan had designed eight substantial houses in Kalorama and Foxhall, all of them based on American colonial prototypes. Their Duncan Phillips House at 2101 Foxhall Road (1928, razed 1988), for example, was a modern rendition of the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis, Maryland.

Nearly a year earlier, in May 1925, Wyeth joined thirty-eight other local architects to incorporate the Allied Architects of Washington (to differentiate it from the Allied Architects of Los Angeles) specifically to have the combined architectural, engineering, and drafting capabilities to bid on large government contracts; by 1929 Wyeth was one of seven of its directors. Their first project was an addition to the House Office Building and Wyeth was in charge of the winning Allied Architects team (the office held an internal competition based on collaborative competition) for a design that replicated the scale and massing of the original Carrere & Hastings building. Wyeth was the chief architect on the revised design completed in 1933, now the Longworth House Office Building.

Wyeth was one of nine local architects selected in 1925 to design schools under Municipal Architect Albert Harris's supervision; he was selected to design the Colonial Revival Calvert Street School (now Oyster Elementary) designed to be an extensible school built wing by wing as funds and needs allowed. Between his 1929 part-time employment in Harris's office and his appointment as municipal architect in 1934, Wyeth was involved in the design of some of the office's schools, libraries, and firehouses, including the Fire Alarm Headquarters Building. In fact, with the exception of Woodrow Wilson High School, it is difficult to determine which of the several civic buildings designed during these years he helped to plan. Once he was in charge of the office, Wyeth followed the architectural style sanctioned by Albert Harris and the Commission of Fine Arts in the 1920s—American Georgian—as the most fitting complement to the city's residential neighborhoods as well as the most flexible and economical.

Wyeth retired as Municipal Architect in June 1946. A few weeks after Wyeth's retirement, his successor Merrell Coe presented the design of the Kelly Miller Junior High School before the Commission of Fine Arts. Its abstraction of classical forms and details, brought about by the impact of Modernism, was the beginning of the end of Washington's Colonial Revival school designs. After his death at the age of 93, Wyeth's wife recalled that during his early career he had always wanted to work on large, complex projects; his sixteen years in the Municipal Architect's Office provided him with many opportunities.

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Arthur B. Heaton (1875-1951)

A native Washingtonian, Arthur B. Heaton was the son of Frank and Mabel Berthrong Heaton. He was educated in the D.C. public schools, graduating from Central High School in 1892. Upon graduation, he apprenticed with the firm of Marsh and Peter and with Paul Pelz, the architect of the Library of Congress. Heaton opened his own practice in 1898. During his first two years of practice he designed four notable apartment buildings: the Augusta (1900), the Montgomery (1901, demolished) the Marlborough (1901, demolished) and the Highland Apartments (1902). Around 1903-1904, he traveled to Europe to study at the Sorbonne in Paris and then tour the great cathedrals of England, France, and Italy. This trip had a lasting influence on the young architect; throughout his 50-year career, Heaton would draw on English and Italian aesthetics. He was also a great admirer of American Colonial architecture, and frequently visited Thomas Jefferson's house at Monticello and Colonial Williamsburg and Fredericksburg for inspiration.

Upon returning to Washington, Heaton gained a reputation practicing in the newly developing areas of the city including the neighborhoods along Connecticut Avenue. Heaton designed scores of homes, commercial buildings, and apartments throughout his prodigious career. Major projects in the District of Columbia include the Equitable Building Association (1911), the Y.W.C.A. Building at 17th and K Streets, NW (1924, demolished), the George Washington University's Corcoran and Stoughton Halls (with Albert Harris, 1924), the Methodist Home for the Aged (1924), the Washington Loan and Trust – West End Branch (1924, demolished), the National Geographic Building (1930), and Hearst Elementary School (1932). He was also responsible for 28 apartment buildings including the Colonial Apartments (1906) and the Altamont Apartments (1915). In 1908, he was appointed Supervising Architect of the Washington Cathedral, and he served in this role for 14 years. From 1917-32, Heaton did major work for Shannon & Luchs, a local real estate brokerage and development firm, designing over 500 houses in the Burleith neighborhood.

Heaton was concerned with promulgating high standards of design beyond the monumental core of Washington. This concern drove his participation in many civic organizations, as well as his own designs. His excellence in this regard was recognized by the Board of Trade, which awarded Heaton an Award of Architectural Merit in 1927 for the Washington Loan and Trust Company Building. James Goode described the award winning building in *Capitol Losses*: "...this bank was an outstanding example of American Beaux Arts architecture—the elegant yet completely comfortable adaptation of historical architectural forms to modern building purpose.... Here an Italian Renaissance palazzo was beautifully transmitted to a street corner in the District of Columbia."

A staunch advocate for the provision of adequate housing, Heaton participated in campaigns to clean up slums and improve Washington buildings. He was a leader in the "Renovise Washington" movement to repair and restore houses while providing jobs during the Depression. Afterwards, Heaton founded the Washington Building Congress and served as Chairman of the Public and Private Buildings Committee of the Board of Trade. In 1940, Heaton worked for the Washington Alley Dwelling Authority to design the 18-building public housing complex located in Southeast Washington named for First Lady Ellen Wilson.

Heaton was an early automobile enthusiast and held one of the first permits to drive in the city (the license was issued to the architect in 1900). His interest in cars was reflected in the design of the Capital Garage at 1320 New York Avenue, NW (1926), which at the time of its completion was believed to be the largest parking structure in the United States. The Art Moderne-style garage featured architectural ornamentation with automobile motifs. Several bas relief panel from the garage were donated to the Smithsonian Institution when the building was demolished in 1974. Heaton was also hired by the Capitol Transit Company in the 1940s to develop the standard model for its bus stations. He also designed several bus garages, which Capital Transit regarded as important public buildings.

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Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North Elevation

1 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Detail of Front Entry, North Elevation

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Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Front Entry Door

3 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Clerestory

4 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Fire Department/Fire Alarm Headquarters

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Lantern/Tower/Dome

5 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North and East Elevations

6 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East Elevation

7 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East Elevation. Front End Bay

8 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Fire Department/Fire Alarm Headquarters

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South Elevation

9 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South Elevation, View looking East

10 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Entry Vestibule

11 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Front Reception Room

12 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Fire Department/Fire Alarm Headquarters
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior, First Floor Restroom
13 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior Stair Leading to Cellar
14 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior, Basement Workroom
15 of 16.

Name of Property: Fire Alarm Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Boiler
16 of 16.

Fire Department/Fire Alarm Headquarters
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name District of Columbia Fire Department
street & number 1923 Vermont Avenue, NW telephone _____
city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20001

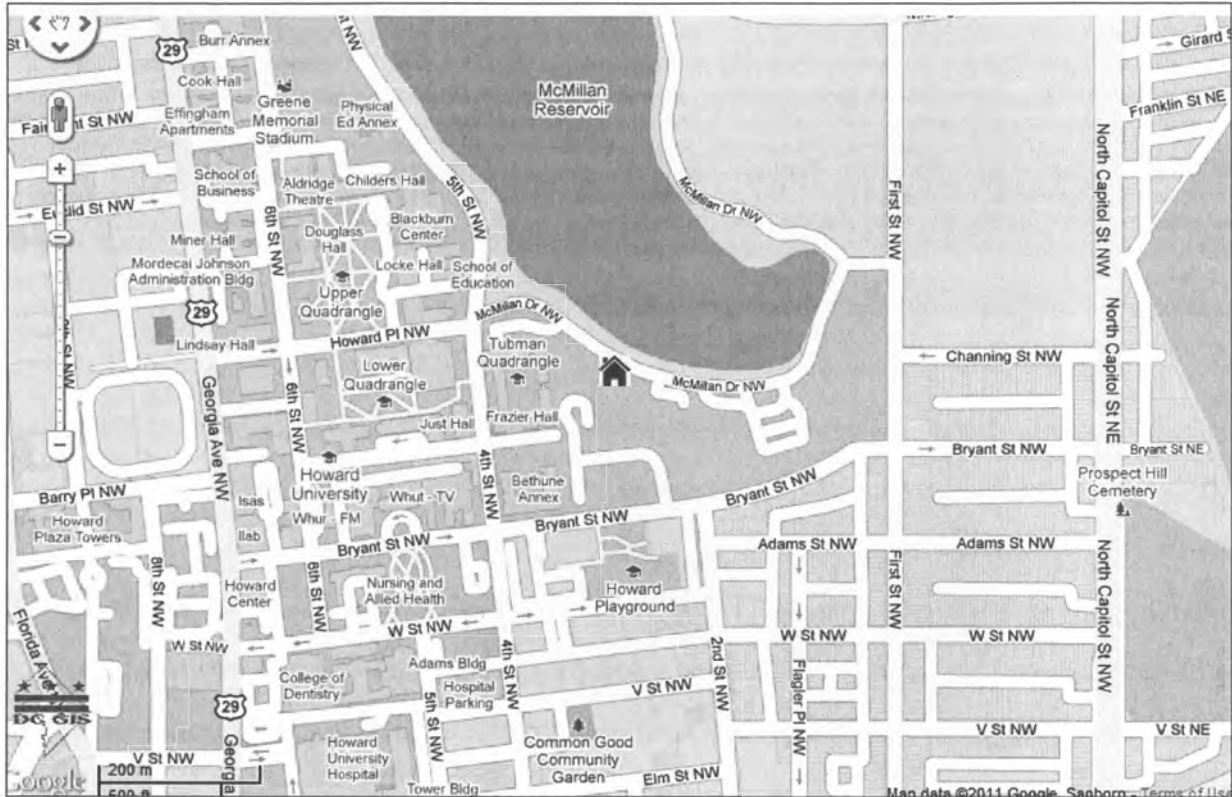
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State Fire houses in Washington, D.C.
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PLANS Page 1



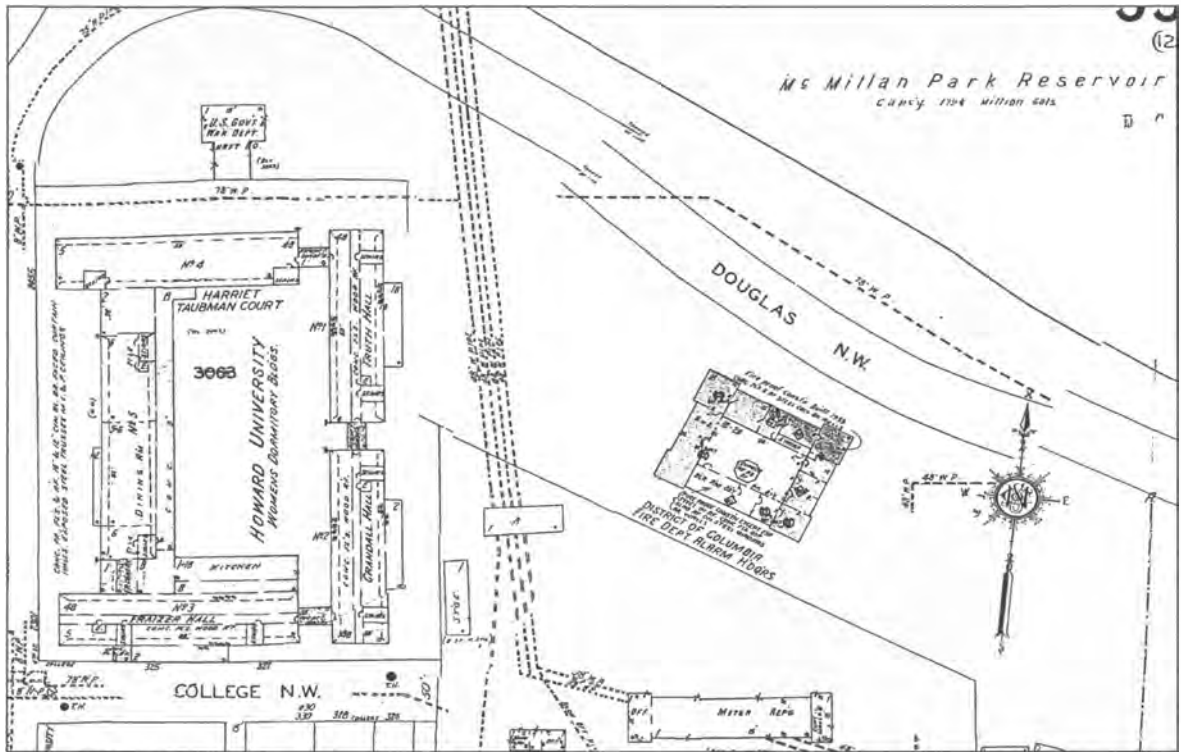
Fire Alarm Headquarters
300 McMillan Road

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State Fire houses in Washington, D.C.
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PLANS Page 2



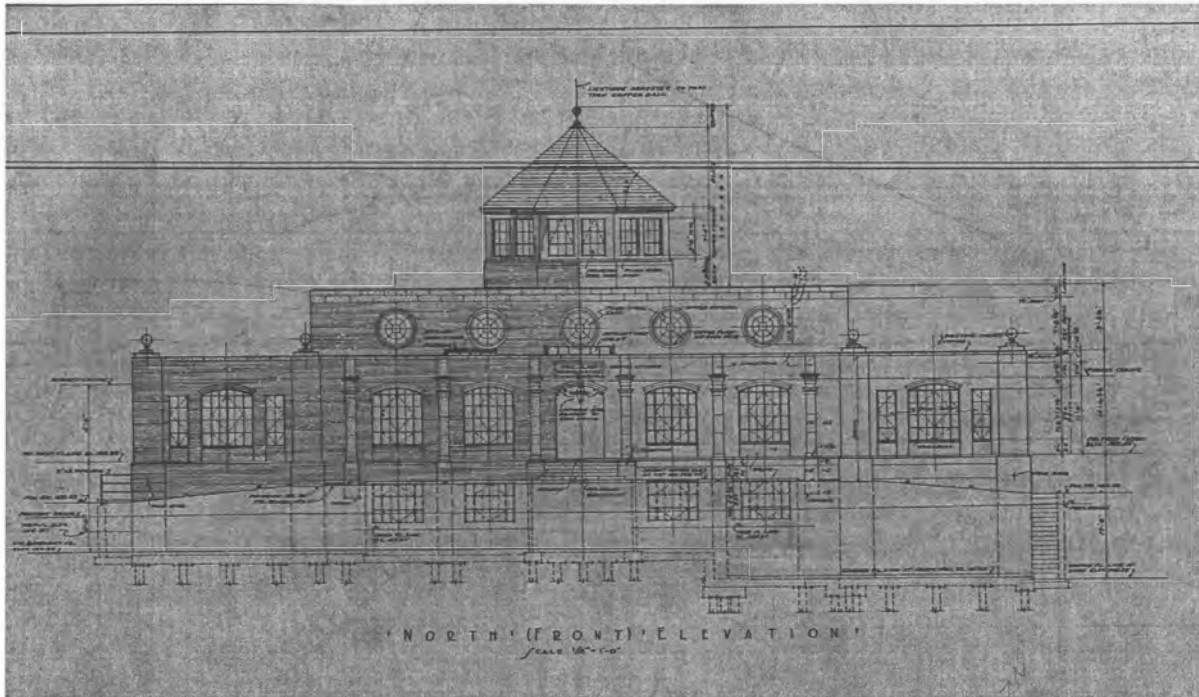
Fire Alarm Headquarters
(from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1960)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

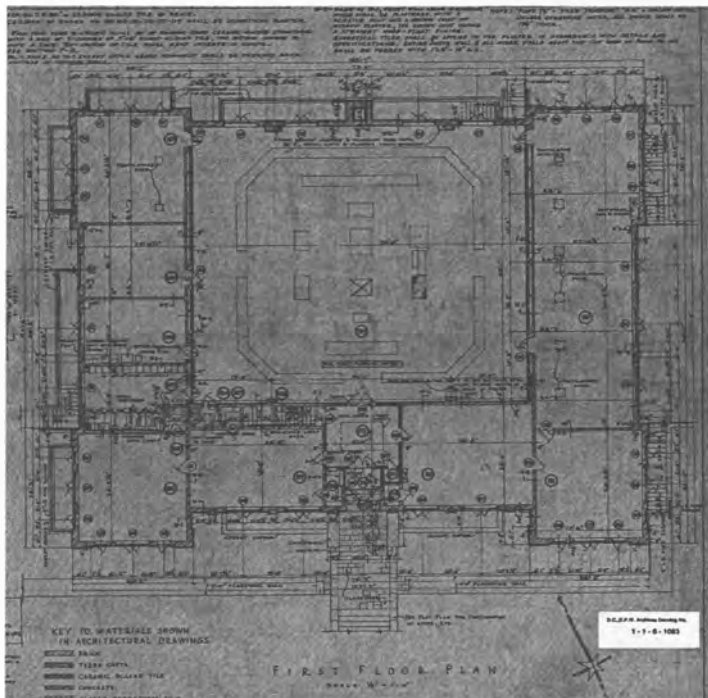
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State Fire houses in Washington, D.C.
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PLANS Page 3



Fire Alarm Headquarters, North (Front) Elevation, 1938
(From D.C. Department of Real Estate Services)



Fire Alarm Headquarters, First Floor Plan, 1938
(Courtesy D.C. Department of Real Estate Services)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fire Department Headquarters--Fire Alarm Headquarters

MULTIPLE NAME: Firehouses in Washington DC MPS

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 4/08/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/25/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/10/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/24/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000286

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-18-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.




THE
WELLS FATES

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Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
North elevation
Photo 1 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11



FIRE DEPT
HEADQUARTERS





0135664 IMG_3001_057

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Clerestory
Photo 4 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11



0135664 IMG_2988_053

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Lantern/Tower
Photo 5 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11



0135664 IMG_2980_050

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
North and east elevations
Photo 6 of 16

WILLIAMS 03/29/11



0135664 IMG_2983_051

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
East elevation
Photo 7 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11



0135664 IMG_2984_052

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC

East elevation, front end bay 03/29/11

Photo 8 of 16



Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
South elevation
Photo 9 of 16

Fuji Williams 6/26/11

0135664 IMG_3021_063



0135664 IMG_3023_064

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
South elevation, view looking east
Photo 10 of 16



Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Entry vestibule
Photo 11 of 16

Fuji 1 WILLIAMS03/29/21

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0135664 IMG_2989_054

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Front reception room
Photo 12 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11





Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Interior stair leading to cellar
Photo 14 of 16

0135664 IMG_3011_058



0135664 IMG_3012_059

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Basement workroom
Photo 15 of 16

WILLIAMS 03/29/11



0135664 IMG_3017_060

Fire Alarm Headquarters
Washington, DC
Boiler
Photo 16 of 16

Fuji WILLIAMS 03/29/11

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500979